

OPPOSE DIVISIVE CHILD WELFARE SHIFT

(SB68, Sponsor Gary Tapp)

Kentucky kids should not be caught in the crossfire of anti-gay attacks. SB68 holds that being without a family is better for a child than being raised by a gay couple. There isn't an informed, sincere debate to be had over whether gay people can be good parents – the only debate is whether to put bias and politics before the well being of innocent children. In 2004, conservative extremists used the lives of gay Kentuckians as a political tool. We will not stand by as our children and our families are used as political pawns again this year. It is dishonest. It is cruel. And it is desperate.

ALL families help make Kentucky strong, including families like yours and mine.

TALKING POINTS

- Thousands of Kentucky kids desperately need stable, loving homes. The Kentucky Department of Health and Family Services reports (11/2008¹):
 - 7,100+ children in state out-of-home care;
 - 2,000 children have the goal of adoption; and
 - 1,000 have had their parental rights terminated and are available and awaiting adoption with no identified family.
- Experts² estimate approximately 1% of adopted children and 3% of fostered children in Kentucky are being raised by gay parents.
- Hundreds of Kentucky kids would be displaced by a ban on gay foster care participation. A joint study by the Urban Institute and the Williams Institute conservatively estimates the transition costs alone at \$1.5 million, diverting resources from other child welfare activities and creating long term stress on parent recruitment efforts.
- A wide variety of professional organizations have official positions recognizing the scientific research on gay parenting and state unequivocally that sexual orientation should not be a determinative factor in assessing the ability of individuals to raise children through adoption, foster care, or second-parent adoptions. Organizations with such statements include:
 - American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (1999)
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (2002)
 - American Bar Association (1999, 2003)
 - American Medical Association (2004)
 - American Psychoanalytic Association (2002)
 - American Psychological Association (2004)
 - Child Welfare League of America (2004)
 - National Adoption Center (1998)
 - National Association of Social Workers (2002)
 - North American Council on Adoptable Children (1998)

Why does Gary Tapp think he knows more about what's best for kids than the American Academy of Pediatrics?

¹ KDHFS Press Release

² *Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States*, March 2007, Gates, Gary J. and Badgett, M.V. Lee of the Williams Institute and Macomber, J.E. and Chambers, K. of the Urban Institute.